

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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R 110950Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2184
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3227

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PORG, MO
SUBJECT: MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMENTS ON ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 127902

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR FOR ARAB LEAGUE AFFAIRS MOHAMED SAADANI COMMENTED JUNE 9 ON TRIPOLI ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE WHICH HE ATTENDED WITH MOROCCAN DELEGATION HEADED BY MFA SECRETARY GENERAL EL IRAQUI.

2. MIDDLE EAST. IN SAADANI'S ASSESSMENT, THERE HAD BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE IMPACT ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS. HE CONSIDERED QADHAFI'S SPEECH RELATIVELY MILD ON THE MIDDLE EAST, WITH A HINT OF MODERATION ON THE ISSUE OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. WHEN PRESSED, SAADANI CAME UP WITH NOTHING SPECIFIC. LIBYAN DELEGATION HAD REMAINED UNUSUALLY QUIET ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES. LIBYA'S MAIN AIM HAD NO DOUBT BEEN SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE, NOT IMPOSING RHETORIC ON OTHERS. WHILE MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION CONTAINED LANGUAGE ON EXPLUSION OF ISRAEL FROM UN, MOST
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AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS HAD REGISTERED RESERVATIONS BASED ON JUDGMENT THAT ISRAELI PRESENCE IN UN WOULD ALLOW GREATER INFLUENCE ON THAT STATE. THIS PART OF RESOLUTION HAD THEREFORE IN EFFECT NOT PASSED. SAADANI WAS ALSO IMPRESSED THAT PLO AND FRONT-LINE STATES HAD BEEN IN GENERAL AGREEMENT, IN CONTRAST TO USUAL WRANGLING, AND HAD COORDINATED THEIR IDEAS INTO THE MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION.

3. ERITREA. MFA SECRETARY GENERAL EL IRAQUI'S STRONG STATEMENT IN FAVOR OF ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE HAD BEEN MOROCCO'S FIRST PUBLIC POSITION ALONG THESE LINES. THE GOM HAD PREVIOUSLY WISHED TO AVOID ANTAGONIZING ETHIOPIA OUT OF CONCERN FOR THE LATTER'S POSITION ON THE SAHARA. NOW, HOWEVER, MOROCCO FELT ETHIOPIA HAD BECOME IRRETRIEVABLY HOSTILE ON THE SAHARA. LIBYAN DELEGATION, IN CONTRAST TO ITS SUBDUED POSITION ON MIDDLE EAST, WAS VERY ACTIVE IN TRYING TO AVOID AN ANTI-ETHIOPIAN RESOLUTION, AND WAS SUPPORTED BY ALGERIA AND AFRICANS. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, SECRETARY GENERAL IRAQUI NOTED THAT GOM POSITION REFLECTED ITS CONCERN OVER VIRTUAL SOVIET TAKEOVER OF ETHIOPIA.

4. SAHARA. THERE HAD BEEN NO DISCUSSION OF THE SAHARA, NOR HAD POLISARIO BEEN INVITED TO ANY OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS. CONFERENCE HAD ALSO PASSED A RESOLUTION ON OBSERVERS WHICH WOULD HELP KEEP POLISARIO OUT OF FUTURE CONFERENCES. GOM WAS THEREFORE COMPLETELY SATISFIED ON HANDLING OF SAHARA ISSUE.

5. LIBYAN/MOROCCAN RELATIONS. LIBYANS HAD BEEN VERY ANXIOUS TO HAVE FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI ATTEND, BUT GOM BELIEVED REPRESENTATION BY MFA SECRETARY GENERAL MORE APPROPRIATE TO CURRENT RELATIONSHIP. IN AN ASIDE TO AMBASSADOR, IRAQUI NOTED THAT GOM HAD COORDINATED ITS LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION WITH EGYPTIANS AND SAUDIS AS ALL THREE CONTINUED TO BE DISTURBED BY QADHAFI'S SUPPORT OF SOVIET OBJECTIVES IN AFRICA. JALLOUD, SAADANI UNDERSTOOD, WAS STRONGLY ANTI-MOROCCAN, BUT THERE WERE OTHER TOP LEVEL LIBYAN OFFICIALS WHO WERE WELL DISPOSED TOWARD

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MOROCCO, INCLUDING CHIEF OF SECURITY. LIBYANS HAD EXPRESSED REGRET OVER MOROCCAN VISA RESTRICTIONS, WHICH HAD CUT DOWN DRASTICALLY ON LIBYAN TRAVEL TO MOROCCO. BOTH COUNTRIES HAD MAINTAINED THEIR AMBASSADORS IN PLACE DESPITE CURRENT STRAINS AND LIBYAN TRAINING OF ANTI-MOROCCAN "SUBVERSIVES." SAADANI ENDED BY SAYING GOM'S AIM WAS TO KEEP LINES OPEN TO POTENTIALLY FRIENDLY ELEMENTS IN LIBYA AGAINST DAY WHEN QADHAFI WOULD NO LONGER BE IN POWER.

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Message Attributes

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